

impaired world and dynamic. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'll give Senator Moore the balance of my time, if he feels he needs it to finish some of the points he was trying to make. Again, what I wanted to add, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, was that the Appropriations Committee was trying to be as up front as possible as to not only come forward with a cut. We show the cut of the savings, for the most part, on the mainline budget. That is something we could have done anyway. But we thought it was good to go with the study and to have, at the same time you're showing a cut, we want to have a good alternative, we want to have a good plan of what we're trying to do, which is why we try...we incorporated the two together. Also want to just say, and I understand how things get lost or we don't get a chance to go through it, but you know on April 30th one of the things that we handed out was a copy of not only the...of what we were proposing to do, but of all the bills that advanced from committee, a list of the new bills, and also other bills that would be in the package of which LB 643 was listed as one of those. So we have been as open as we can about bringing this within the package. Senator Withem, I think, raises some valid points, and that is, do, in fact, we have to pass 643 in order to, A, affect a savings or, B, is it absolutely necessary? And I think the answer to that is probably no. I don't think we absolutely need to do so. In fact it could be that simply the discussion and the intent and what the tone of the Legislature is in this area might be enough to set the tone as well, because again, we could technically, on the appropriations side, if the body was willing, simply take the cut and that would be it. A couple points I'd like to make. Senator Hall I know changed...by the way, I support the Withem amendment that basically, I believe, changed it from shall to may, but one of the concerns I have is what Senator Rasmussen was talking about earlier, and that if...the concern the Appropriations Committee had was that we don't want to give too many false impressions out there. We don't want to...one of the...one of the points that has got to be hammered home is we cannot, in the budgetary situation we find ourselves in now and in the outlying bienniums that will continue, we cannot do business as usual on the cost side of this particular program. It simply cannot be done at that level. If, for some reason,